

Richmond Oct 8th 1852

Dear Sir

A poor woman residing in Rockbridge, County Va, who is the widowed mother of a large family of children, owns a small piece of land, on which there is a mineral spring, containing among other things a large amount of Alum. The waters of the Va Alum Springs are, as you are aware, in high repute for their medicinal qualities, and if this spring should prove valuable, it will be a source of profit to the poor woman who is I learn a very estimable character. Now, I write you on the subject at the request of Mr Addie, who wishes to know your most moderate terms of Analysis of the said water, taking into consideration the circumstances above mentioned.

She has sent us about ten gallons of the water, which can be forwarded as you may direct in case you undertake the analysis. Perhaps some one of your students would like to undertake the analysis by way of improving themselves. Were I with you I should be glad of the opportunity, but as I am at present situated, have not the facilities for so doing. As the gentleman from the ^{neighbourhood} ~~neighbourhood~~ of this spring will leave the City next week (Wednesday next) and wishes to return with some definite information on the subject; I must get the favour of you to reply immediately.

I am pleased to hear that you have commenced with a full class this fall, and congratulate you upon the fine lithographic portraits, one of which through the kindness of Buck I am in possession of. Please tell Buck I received his last, I wish him much success in exploring my old battle field "Ergot". By the way, I have seen Winckle's paper on the subject. My kind regards to the students known to me, & Prof. Morfit.

Very truly yours
J Roberts Baker